

# Opportunity Returns

NW - Nancy Mulcahey

NS - Steve Bois



*opportunity*returns  
ten regions. ten plans. the goal is jobs.

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# The Goal is Jobs

NS & NW Regions Collaboration for Rural  
10 County Broadband  
10 Counties – 500,000 People

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- High quality broadband connectivity at lowest sustainable cost.
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- Co-op ownership and operational model
  - Get-er-done!
    - Phase one = 180 days to backbone
    - Phase two = 24 months to full connectivity

# How?



# How?



Talent

- Champion
- Architect
- Finance
- Legal



Time

- Collaborators
- Trainers



\$ Capital

- Private
- Public
- Government

- 10 Counties
- 2 Regions for OR
- 500,000 rural population
- 6 out of 10 counties experiencing decreasing population

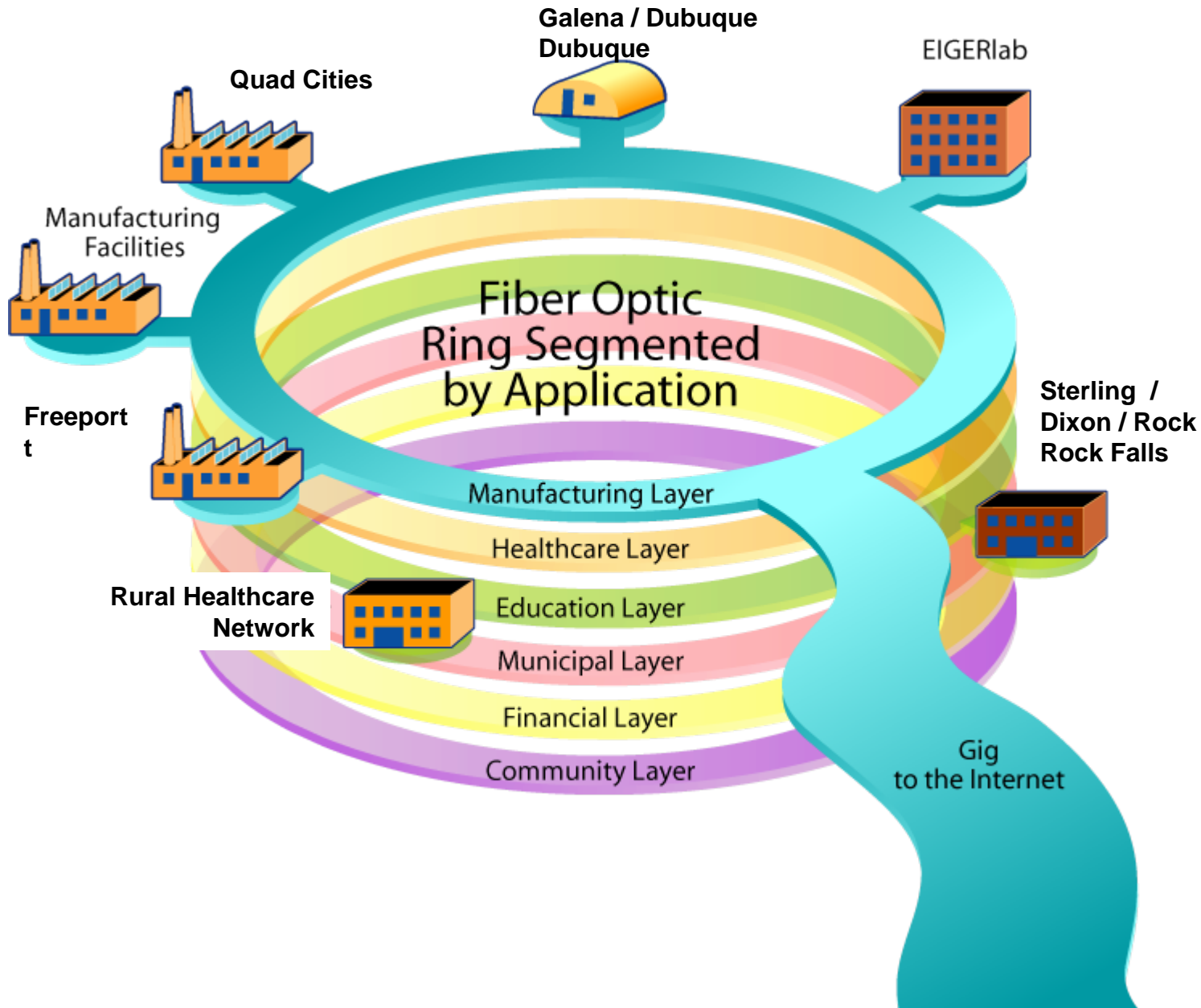


- Phase one Blue backbone fiber = \$4 million – 180 days completion
- Phase two – connectivity to rural population = \$3 million – 2 years completion

# Partners/Collaborators

- Colleges, Universities, School Districts
- Hospitals, Clinics, Physician Practices
- Police and Fire Protection
- County and Municipal Governments
- Opportunity Returns Regions
- Federal government legislators
- Businesses, Chambers of Commerce
- Developers, EDCs

# NS&NW Regional Ring



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# NS & NW Regions Collaboration for Rural Broadband

- This is a collaborative initiative private/public comprising two Opportunity Returns Regions – Northern Stateline and Northwest.
- Scope of Project – provide fiber optic infrastructure which will enable communities to access large band width at lowest possible cost. Project utilizes existing fiber pipes and wireless technologies. This infrastructure will be the primary enabler for rural communities to connect into high speed data communications at a low cost.
- Phase One – infrastructure backbone for 10 low density county areas = \$4 million
  1. Time to complete phase one going live = 180 days after receipt funds
- Phase Two – wireless connectivity to community clusters along the fiber backbone – approx \$100,000 per cluster. Completion estimate 2 years from funding approval including community education, wireless installation etc. = \$3 million to provide hardware, software and technical operations support to enable maximum coverage and connectivity to Schools, Hospitals, Businesses, Farms and Citizens.
- Business issue = Major printing company in low density area at risk of moving due to lack of broad band services. Approx 500 jobs may leave community. Company is in decision making process and looking at options.

# THE VISION

What is the “regional broadband initiative”?

- A high speed fiber-optic based IP communications network infrastructure
- This initiative results from lack of affordable high-speed broadband connectivity and converging public/private interests
- Regional private sector companies have invested \$3.5million+ of effort to date in research, planning, organizing.
- It is the regional backbone for high speed data communications
- First step and best hope for effectively bridging the ‘digital divide’ in Northwest Illinois

# THE BENEFITS

## Broadband and Regional Development

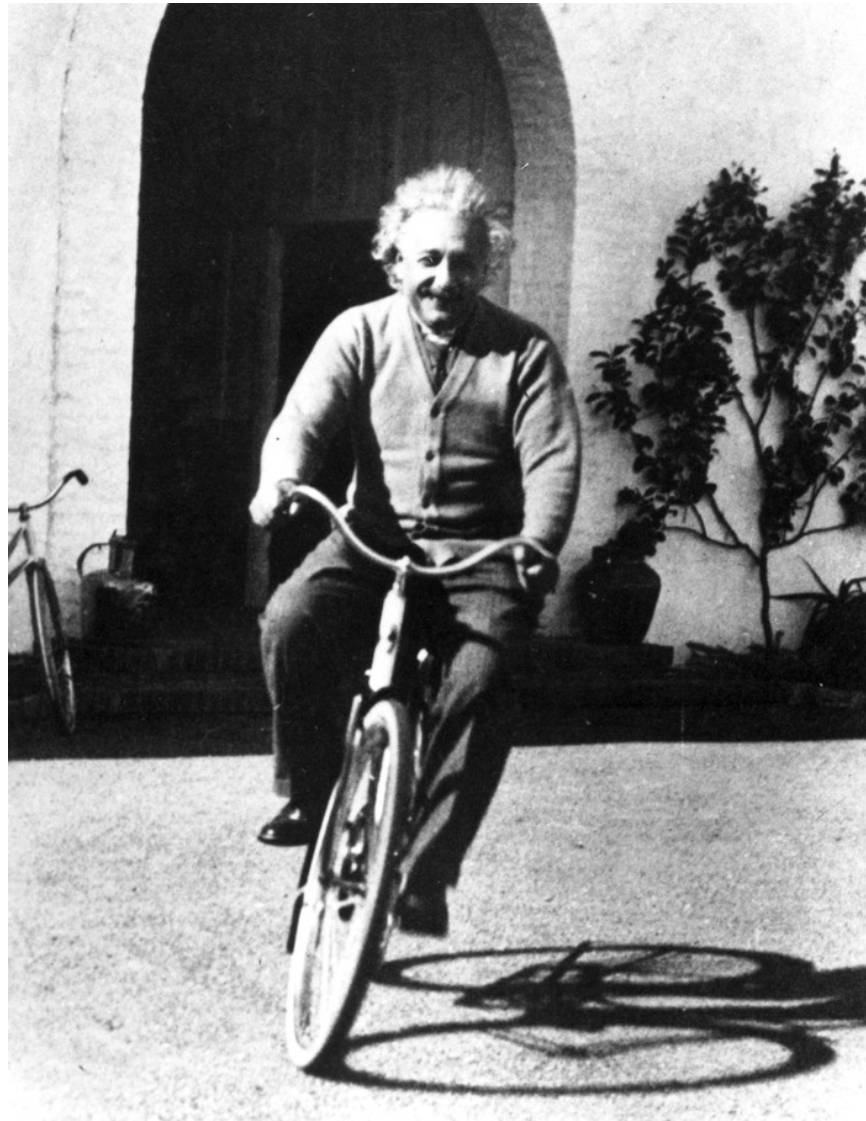
- Infrastructure for Rural Health Care initiative
- Bridge 'digital divide' for small, underserved communities
- First responders (Homeland Security)
- World Class infrastructure for regional small manufacturers (eCommerce)
- Access to world class research for Regional technology incubators (EIGERlab)

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## Time

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## \$ Sources

- Private
- Public
- Governmental